

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026279  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 DOE-11 SOE-02 OES-07 /093 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE:MMW  
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS  
ARA/P:WJDIETRICH (SUB)  
-----113510 011335Z /43

R 010253Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMCONSUL BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS - PRESS GUIDANCE

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS  
WAS PREPARED FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN ON  
JANUARY 26. HOWEVER, NO QUESTIONS OF THIS ISSUE WERE  
ASKED.

Q: PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER OF  
BELIZE, GEORGE PRICE, SAYS THAT THE US IS PRESSURING  
BELIZE TO GIVE UP A PART OF ITS TERRITORY IN EXCHANGE FOR  
GUATEMALAN AGREEMENT TO BELIZE'S INDEPENDENCE. DO YOU  
HAVE ANY COMMENT?

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PAGE 02 STATE 026279

A: THE US GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE A PEACEFUL  
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES TO THE  
DISPUTE, AND WE HAVE SOUGHT TO BE HELPFUL IN THAT REGARD.  
WE DO NOT FAVOR ANY PARTICULAR FORMULA FOR A SETTLEMENT.

Q: DID ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER  
PRICE AND GUATEMALAN OFFICIALS?

A: YES. HE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER PRICE, AT HIS REQUEST LAST WEEK IN MIAMI DURING A CONFERENCE IN THAT CITY ON CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS. HE WAS IN GUATEMALA EARLY THIS WEEK AS ONE STOP ON A VISIT, PLANNED SIX WEEKS AGO, TO A NUMBER OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. WHILE THERE HE TALKED WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA.

Q: WHAT DID AMBASSADOR TODMAN TELL THEM?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFICS OF THE CONVERSATION FOR YOU, BUT YOU CERTAINLY MAY ASSUME THAT WHAT HE SAID TO ALL CONCERNED WAS IN LINE WITH THE POLICY I HAVE MENTIONED.

Q: IS THERE REALLY OIL IN THE REGION THAT MAY GO TO GUATEMALA?

A: WE ARE AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN EXPLORATION IN THE AREA, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW THAT A NY HAS BEEN FOUND.

Q: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT FEEL THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BROKEN DOWN?

A: NO. THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT FURTHER TALKS ARE PLANNED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. VANCE  
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PAGE 03 STATE 026279

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE026279  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LPFEIFLE:MMW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780048-0223  
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**Message ID:** 078b6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3440263  
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**Subject:** BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS - PRESS GUIDANCE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, SOPN, PDEV, GT, BH, UK  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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